

COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (previously presented): An electronic musical instrument comprising:

a keyboard that is operated for performance;

a cover unit that includes a front cover having a panel surface and a rear cover each having a front end and a rear end, said front cover and said rear cover being disposed such that said front cover and said rear cover are arranged in forward and rearward directions when said cover unit is in a closed state, and a hinge device pivotally connecting said front cover and said rear cover such that said cover unit lays open a space above said keyboard when said cover unit is in an open state where said front cover and said rear cover are folded;

at least one functional component selected from a group consisting of at least one loudspeaker, a display and operators mounted on the panel surface of said front cover;

a musical tone generator that generates musical tones;

an instrument body that accommodates said keyboard and said musical tone generator, said instrument body including at least one pivotal support member fixed therein, a guide mechanism that supports said rear cover such that said rear cover is movable in the forward and rearward directions, left and right lateral side panels;

wherein said pivotal support member pivotally supports said rear end of said front cover and has a pivotal motion support,

wherein said front cover and said hinge device are pivotally movable about said pivotal motion support, and said hinge device is capable of pivotally moving until said hinge device becomes positioned below said pivotal motion support,

wherein said front cover has a thickness for accommodating said functional component and accommodates said functional component therein, and

wherein said panel surface of said front cover is disposed in facing relation to a player when said cover unit is in the open state, and said functional component is disposed on the panel surface of said front cover.

Claim 23 (previously presented): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 22, wherein as said cover unit is moved from a closed position to an open position, said rear cover moves rearward while lowering its front end.

Claim 24 (previously presented): An electronic musical instrument comprising:

a topboard having a lower surface;

a plurality of juxtaposed operating elements;

a cover unit that covers said plurality of operating elements, said cover unit including a front cover and a rear cover each having a front end and a rear end, said front cover and said rear cover being disposed such that said front cover and said rear cover are arranged in forward and rearward directions when said cover unit is in a closed state, and a hinge device pivotally connecting said front cover and said rear cover such that said cover unit lays open a space above said keyboard when said cover unit is in an open state where said front cover and said rear cover are folded;

an instrument body that accommodates said plurality of operating elements, said instrument body including pivotal support members disposed laterally outward of said plurality of juxtaposed operating elements, said instrument body having an upper part thereof formed by said cover unit and said topboard; and

at least one link member that allows said rear cover to move while acting as a damper member, said link member having one end and another end,

wherein said pivotal support members are located below said hinge device and pivotally support said front cover,

wherein said rear cover has the rear end thereof pivotally supported by the one end of said link member such that said rear cover pivotally moves about the one end when said cover unit is pivotally moved about said hinge device and said pivotal support members into the open state or

into the closed state, the other end of said link member being supported by said instrument body in a vicinity of the lower surface of said topboard, and

wherein the rear end of said rear cover pivotally supported by the one end of said link member is positioned above the front end of said rear cover when said cover unit is pivotally moved into the open state or into the closed state.

Claim 25 (previously presented): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 24, wherein as said cover unit is moved from a closed position to an open position, said rear cover moves rearward while lowering its front end.

Claim 26 (previously presented): An electronic musical instrument comprising:

- a plurality of juxtaposed operating elements;
- a cover unit that covers said plurality of operating elements, said cover unit including a front cover having a panel surface and a rear cover each having a front end and a rear end, said front cover and said rear cover being disposed such that said front cover and said rear cover are arranged in forward and rearward directions when said cover unit is in a closed state, and a hinge device pivotally connecting said front cover and said rear cover such that said cover unit lays open a space above said keyboard when said cover unit is in an open state where said front cover and said rear cover are folded;
- at least one functional component selected from a group consisting of at least one loudspeaker, a display and operators mounted on the panel surface of said front cover;
- a load reducing device that reduces load applied to said front cover due to a weight of said front cover when said cover unit is opened and closed; and
- an instrument body that includes at least one pivotal support member fixed therein, said hinge device extending in a transverse direction of said instrument body,
- wherein said pivotal support member pivotally supports said rear end of said front cover and has a pivotal motion support,
- wherein said front cover and said hinge device are pivotally movable about said pivotal motion support, and said hinge device is capable of pivotally moving until said hinge device becomes positioned below said pivotal motion support,
- wherein said front cover has a thickness for accommodating said functional component and accommodates said functional component therein,

wherein said panel surface of said front cover is disposed in facing relation to a player when said cover unit is in the open state, and said functional component is disposed on the panel surface of said front cover, and

wherein said load reducing device comprises at least one resilient member that has a resistance force thereof increased against a motion of said front cover toward a fully open position or a fully closed position of said cover unit as said front cover approaches the fully open position or the fully closed position, said resilient member having one end thereof connected to said instrument body, and another end thereof connected to said front cover at a location remote from said hinge device in a direction perpendicular to the transverse direction of said instrument body in which said hinge device extends.

Claim 27 (previously presented): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 26, wherein as said cover unit is moved from a closed position to an open position, said rear cover moves rearward while lowering its front end.

Claim 28 (currently amended): An electronic musical instrument comprising:

a plurality of performance operating elements;

an instrument body that accommodates said plurality of performance operating elements, said instrument body including at least one pivotal support member fixed therein;

a fallboard unit that covers said plurality of performance operating elements, said fallboard unit including a first fallboard member having a panel surface and a second fallboard member, said first fallboard member having a free end and another end, said second fallboard member having one end, said first fallboard member and said second fallboard member being disposed such that said first fallboard member and said second fallboard member are arranged in forward and rearward directions when said fallboard unit is in a closed state, and a hinge device pivotally connecting the other end of said first fallboard member and the one end of said second fallboard member; and

at least one functional component selected from a group consisting of at least one loudspeaker, a display and operators mounted on the panel surface of said first fallboard member, ~~front cover~~;

wherein said first fallboard member has at least one pivotal motion support disposed such that said pivotal motion support is positioned inward of said hinge device when said fallboard unit is in a closed state, said pivotal support member having said pivotal motion support, ~~said pivotal motion support being pivotally supported by said pivotal support member, and~~

wherein said first fallboard member has an upper surface extending between the free end of said first fallboard member and said hinge device, and a lower surface extending between the free end of said first fallboard member and said pivotal motion support, said functional component

being disposed in a space defined between the upper surface of said first fallboard member and the lower surface of said first fallboard member, and

wherein the upper surface and the lower surface of said first fallboard member progressively become closer to each other toward the free end of said first fallboard member such that said first fallboard member has a thickness thereof progressively reduced.

Claim 29 (previously presented): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 28, wherein as said fallboard unit is moved from a closed position to an open position, said second fallboard member moves rearward while lowering its one end.

Claim 30 (new): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 22, wherein said guide mechanism comprises at least one link member pivotable about a predetermined pivot provided on said instrument body.

Claim 31 (New): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 22, wherein said guide instrument comprises guide grooves provided in said left and right lateral side panels.

Claim 32 (new): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 28, comprising a protective member provided on the lower surface of said first fallboard member, for protecting said functional component.

Claim 33 (new): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 32, wherein said functional component is secured to said protective member.

Claim 34 (new): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 28, wherein said second fallboard member includes a free end disposed in opposed relation to said hinge device, said free end being movable in a longitudinal direction of said instrument body.

Claim 35 (new): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 34, further comprising a link member, wherein the free end of said second fallboard member is made movable by said link member.

Claim 36 (new): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 34, comprising a guide mechanism provided in said instrument body for enabling movement by said second fallboard member.

Claim 37 (new): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 36, wherein said guide mechanism is disposed at an upper location within said instrument body.

Claim 38 (new): An electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 36, wherein said second fallboard member includes at least one engaging member, and wherein said guide member includes at least one groove in which said engaging member is slidably fitted.